

Remarks

Claims 22-25, 32-34, and 38-49 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 47 and amended claim 41. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the subject specification and in the claims as originally filed (see, for example, page 10, lines 13-18). Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 22-25, 32-34, and 38-47 and 49 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein places the subject application in condition for allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 22-25, 32-34, 38-46, 48 and 49 are allowed.

Claim 41 is objected to because the acronym "TMAE" is used without first defining what it represents. By this Amendment, Applicants have replaced the acronym "TMAE" with "trimethylaminoethyl-derivatized" and then placed the acronym in parenthesis. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Boschetti (2002) in view of Xiang *et al.* (2001) and Burton *et al.* (1998). The Office Action indicates that the teachings of the references are disclosed in the Office Actions mailed January 22, 2009 and October 9, 2007. Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not obvious over the cited reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion, Applicants have canceled claim 47. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including

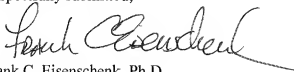
any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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